

Hearing: The Most Important Sense Used in Owling

Have you ever heard the hooting sound of an owl? Have you ever followed that mysterious sound until you've found the bird making that call? When you go owling in the deep darkness of a forest night, you must use your sense of hearing more than any other sense. Unless there is a full moon or bright white snow, your eyes will be of little use before you actually spot the owl. You may touch tree bark to get your bearings or feel your flashlight like a lifeline in your hand, but your sense of touch won't be of much use in the black woods. You must be "as quiet as a dream" and listen carefully for the owl's haunting call. You must follow the sound, imitate the call, and wait as still as a mouse for a response. You must listen as if your ears were as huge as a jackrabbit's to find an owl high up on a dark tree branch.

Quote from Owl Moon, by Jane Yolen, illustrated by John Schoenherr